

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00498 140619Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08
TRSE-00 AGRE-00 OMB-01 /067 W
-----140628Z 019795 /17

R 121000Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1089
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, FI
SUBJECT: ENHANCED PROSPECTS FOR FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT

REF: HELSINKI 0396

1. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) COUNCIL MET MARCH 9. COUNCIL ISSUED VARIOUS ECONOMIC POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS CALLING FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A MODERATE INCOMES POLICY SETTLEMENT, NO FURTHER AGRICULTURAL PRICE INCREASES OR TAX INCREASES, AND INTENSIFIED EFFORTS AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT. PARTY CHAIRMAN SORSA IN HIS SPEECH SAID THAT IF CENTRIST PARTIES AND SKDL (COMMUNIST-FRONT PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE) INTERESTED IN GOVERNMENT TALKS, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING SHOULD BE REACHED ABOUT SDP "THRESHOLD QUESTIONS", SPECIFICALLY, LAND POLICY LEGISLATION, SECURING OF HOUSING FINANCING, COUNTER-CYCLICAL ECONOMIC LEGISLATION AND CERTAIN TAX POLICIES. SORSA REJECTED POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION IN GOVT WITH CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

2. FOLLOWING DAY SORSA ANNOUNCED HE HAD INVITED PARTY CHAIRMAN
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AND OTHER LEADERS OF THREE CENTRIST PARTIES TO MEETING ON MARCH 11 TO DISCUSS STATE OF CONFIDENCE OR LACK OF CONFIDENCE AMONG THE VARIOUS PARTIES; THE MEETING WAS DESCRIBED AS FIRST OF A SERIES OF TALKS TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT ON FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MARCH 11 MEETING WAS CARRIED ON IN HARMONIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE, ALTHOUGH NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED. FURTHER TALKS WILL BE

CARRIED ON NEXT WEEK BY THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUP CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE CENTRIST PARTIES AND SDP. NEXT MEETING AT PARTY CHAIRMAN LEVEL SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 22. TALKS BETWEEN SDP AND CENTRIST GROUPS MAY LATER BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE SKDL.

3. COMMENT: ONE KEY PARTICIPANT IN SDP PARTY COUNCIL MEETING TOLD POLCOUNS THERE NOW STRONG SUPPORT WITHIN SDP FOR A RETURN TO GOVT, ALTHOUGH A SMALL MINORITY CONTINUES TO FAVOR STAYING IN OPPOSITION. HE SAID THAT SDP, WHILE STATING ITS OWN PROGRAM OBJECTIVES, IS PREPARED TO COMPROMISE. WITHIN SDP IT IS NOT EXPECTED SKDL WILL FORM PART OF POSSIBLE NEW MAJORITY GOVT. PROSPECTS FOR FORMATION OF MAJORITY GOVT ARE FURTHER ENHANCED BY RELATIVELY FAVORABLE RECEPTION GIVEN TO LINAMAA INCOMES POLICY PACKAGE (HELSINKI 0496). APRIL NOW BEING MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE TIME WHEN NEW GOVT MIGHT BE FORMED.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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